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(See Story on Page 2)

THE ILLINOIS ENGINEER, APRIL, 1950—VOLUME XXVI, NO. 4

Address all communications to the Society at 204 Civil Engineering Hall, Urbana, Illinois.
The Society is not responsible for statements made or opinions expressed in this publication.

ILLINOIS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, Incorporated

Affiliated with the National Society of Professional Engineers

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Legislative Analyzing

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Public Interests

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U. S. G. S. Mapping

George H. Dell, Chairman; J. C. Beekman, Forrest Fisher, H. A. Kluge, B. C. McCurd, J. C. Penn, W. H. Rayner, Max Suter.

ILLINOIS ENGINEER: W. A. OLIVER, Editor-in-Chief; H. E. BABBITT, Associate Editor; MAX SUTER, Correspondent to American Engineer

Of Professional Interest

LET'S MAKE OUR STAND

Message from the Junior Representative to the Board
There are literally hundreds of societies to which a young engineer can belong, but many of these overlap in other. In moulding our professional being, we could develop both our technical and professional sides. There are numerous technical societies for all branches of engineering, but none of these can satisfactorily handle professional problems. NSPE and ISPE can, and are, handling these problems and will do even a better job as we lend our wholehearted support and join with the work. Let's make our professional stand clear and for all with NSPE and ISPE.

LEE E. STICKLER

SOCIETY PLANS CONFERENCE FOR CHAPTER OFFICERS

Ways and means of holding a conference similar to one held in January, 1949, have been considered for some time. With the strained condition of the finances and the strict budget under which we are working, it has been suggested that the conference could be held if each Chapter would assume the travel expenses of its officers involved who attend the meeting. The State Society will assume the cost of the luncheon. Of course if individuals involved care to assume their own travel expense, there will be no objection.

A choice of three Saturdays after Easter is open, namely the 15th, 22nd or 29th of April.

The tentative agenda includes a discussion of the Chapter Hand Book, two copies of which were sent to each Chapter by N.S.P.E. Also included on the agenda is a discussion of the duties of Chapter officers, use of house organs," Chapter Rosters, plus a liberal question and answer period.

S. L. STOLTE NEW PRESIDENT OF N.S.P.E.

S. L. Stolte, St. Paul, Minn., consulting engineer, was elected president of the National Society of Professional Engineers for 1950-51, it was announced today. He will assume his duties July 1.

Professional engineers named as vice-presidents were: G. Krueger, Deputy Commissioner, N. J. Department of Labor, Madison, N. J.; Cherry L. Emerson, Vice-president and Dean, School of Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Ga.; John D. Coleman, Supervisor, Material Utilization, General Motors Corp., Wyton, Ohio; C. G. Roush, Kansas City Manager, Westinghouse Electric Corp., Kansas City, Mo.; L. L. Dresser, President, Dresser Engineering Co., Tulsa, Okla.; and Earl N. Holm, Valuation Engineer, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Sacramento, Calif. Russell B. Allen, Professor, Civil Engineering, University of Maryland, College Park, Md., was re-elected treasurer.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On Thursday-Saturday, March 9-11, the Assistant Secretary, P. E. "Skeet" Roberts and I attended the Conference for State Society Presidents and Secretaries sponsored by National Society of Professional Engineers and held at Nashville, Tennessee.

The first day of the three was supposed to be for Secretaries, the second for both Secretaries and Presidents, and the third for Presidents, with the second officers welcome to attend the first and third days. Most of them did so.

With possibly one exception, every State Society except Puerto Rico was represented at the Conference, generally by both the President and Secretary, plus an extra representative or two from some. The National President, several of the National Vice-Presidents, the National staff, and other National Society representatives were also present.

Needless to say, there was much discussion, most of it relevant and to the point, which revealed the conditions of professional engineers in the various states, the status and problems of the State societies, and the methods by which such problems had been or were being approached if not already pretty well resolved. This exchange of views and experiences, plus the opportunity to make acquaintance with men of similar mind and purpose from all over the country, was of course the objective and most valuable result of the conference, and I personally benefited greatly from it. I trust that I gained from it much that I can apply and utilize to advantage in administering the affairs of our State Society during the rest of my term.

The first day was devoted principally to discussion of (a) State society publications and other communications more or less widely circulated in the respective states and (b) techniques of handling membership applications, cards, dues, statements, records, transfers, mailing lists, delinquents, etc. During the last two days the discussions covered the following 15 topics, each with three

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READ THE ADVERTISEMENTS

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$2.00 per year in advance to members of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers. \$4.00 per year in advance to non-members in U.S.A. and its possessions, Canada, and Mexico. Foreign \$6.00. Single copies 40c. Published by the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers, Inc., at 119 West Park Avenue, Champaign, Illinois.
Entered as Second Class Matter April 27, 1949, at the Post Office, Champaign, Illinois.

to six subtopics: Chapter activities, conferences for Chapter presidents and secretaries, education, employment practices, engineers in industry, engineers-in-training, ethical practices, inter-society relations, legislative activities, membership, military affairs committees, public relations, publications, registration, and State society organization. With this voluminous agenda it surprised no one that on the third day some of the subtopics were omitted in order to adjourn by 4 p.m., by which time most of the representatives had to leave to make train or plane connections.

A canvass of the Presidents and Secretaries of our Illinois Chapters is in progress to ascertain their interest and will with respect to assembling for a conference, and and if it materializes the knowledge and experience which was acquired at the Nashville conference will be adapted directly to the benefit of our Chapters and State organization.

GEORGE E. EKBLAW, *President, I.S.P.E.*

COMING EVENTS IN THE CHICAGO CHAPTER

April 19, 1950—C. Maxwell Stanley, Past President, Iowa Engineering Society. Subject: Iowa Approach to Unification.

May 17, 1950—Alex Van Praag, Past President, NSPE. Subject: Unification is Possible—A Professional Must. Place: Electric Club, 20 N. Wacker Drive.

June 21, 1950—Homer Humphrey. Subject: The Engineer and His Camera.

The third Wednesday of the month has been adopted as the regular meeting night. The February meeting is an exception in order to take advantage of the special opportunity to hear news directly from National Headquarters.

Exact times and places not indicated above will be announced later.

Preliminary plans have been made for an equally outstanding program for the remainder of the year. Make plans now to attend each meeting. Bring your guests.

Please return the attached reservation card not later than February 20, 1950.

President, C. A. Walls.

Secretary, E. L. Reiter, 20 N. Wacker Drive.

Program Chairman, F. W. Edwards.

COST OF LIVING INDEX

The correction factor to be applied to the I. S. P. E. Schedule of Minimum Fees and Salaries was 166.5 for February, 1950. This factor is based upon the U. S. Department of Labor's most recent Consumer Price Index.

ANTI-GLARE GLASS

A new safety plate glass for automobile windshields reduces glare and heat on bright sunny days.

It is chemically tinted a slight bluish-green, to cut out 15 per cent of the infra-red rays of sunshine.

The glass reduces eyestrain on sunny days and does not distort vision.

COVER PICTURE

Illinois Institute of Technology

In 1940, the boards of trustees of two institutions, Lewis Institute and Armour Institute of Technology, decided that a merger would serve education and research in greater measure than the two schools could as separate institutions. They created a new institution—the Illinois Institute of Technology.

The board's first problem was one of location of the new college. Both Lewis and Armour had been founded during the nineties in desirable residential districts. By 1940, both were enveloped in slum neighborhoods and housed in obsolete, poorly-maintained buildings of questionable architectural standards. The physical facilities of each were inadequate for the education and research programs envisioned by the trustees of the new college and its president, Henry T. Heald.

Consideration of the residential source of the student body played a large part in determining the location. Before the consolidation, students had come chiefly from homes in Chicago and outlying districts. To continue the institute's comprehensive night school program, its trustees had to consider traveling time and evening course facilities. For both day and evening students, a location near the center of the metropolitan area was desirable.

Search for a possible city location finally narrowed down to the central south side, where the Institute program was already functioning. There were serious drawbacks. The neighborhood around 33rd and Federal Streets was run down. It had once been the residential neighborhood of the elite, but it had degenerated until it was notorious for its slum conditions. However, there was good reason to believe that the property deterioration had gone about as far as it could go. Work and wise planning could make it better, and improvement in one area would cause a general uplifting of the entire south side. It was on this premise that Illinois Tech began to plan and build for the future.

Campus boundaries extend between 30th and 35th streets from State street to the New York Central railroad right-of-way and between 31st and 35th streets from Michigan avenue to State street. The campus area, three miles south of the Loop and one and a half mile west of Lake Michigan, is served by bus, elevated train, street cars, and automobile thoroughfares.

Among numerous new structures recently built on the campus are the Chemistry and the Metallurgical and Chemical Engineering Buildings shown on the cover of this issue. The Metallurgical and Chemical Engineering Building was completed in December, 1947, at a cost, without equipment, of \$975,000, or about 75 cents per cubic foot. It contains laboratories, classrooms, and offices for these two departments. The Chemistry Building was completed in November, 1947, at a cost, without equipment, of \$740,000, or about 90 cents per cubic foot. It provides laboratories, classrooms, and offices for the chemistry department.

(Information for the above from F. W. Edwards.)

ITEMS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

This column is read and enjoyed. Send in items (any of a personal nature is good copy) concerning yourself or your friends. Give us the facts. We'll write them for you.

Announcement was recently made of the formation of the V. S. Walgren Company, specialists in masonry construction. Mr. V. S. Walgren will serve as president of the new company. He has been an Affiliate of the Society since 1945.

* * *

Mr. M. E. Amstutz, Past President, I. S. P. E., was recently appointed County Superintendent of Highways of Lake County. He is a long-time member of both State and National and has taken an active interest in Society affairs. The Society takes pleasure in announcing his advancement.

* * *

The Society learns with regret of the death of Leonard Latz, long-time member of Lake County Chapter, on March 3, 1950. Mr. Latz was a structural and mechanical engineer with Wilbur A. Mullin, architect of Waukegan. He is survived by Mrs. Latz, a daughter, two sons and two grandchildren.

* * *

Mr. C. M. Hathaway, N. S. P. E., Chief Engineer, Division of Highways, State of Illinois, paid us an unexpected but most pleasant visit on March 29th. He was on his way to speak to the Senior Civil Engineering students of the University of Illinois.

H. L. CHASTAIN APPOINTED WATER COMMISSIONER OF DECATUR



H. L. Chastain, member I.S.P.E., Water Commissioner, seated, standing left to right are Health Commissioner Dr. P. A. Eisele, Finance Commissioner George Albert, Mayor J. A. Hedrick, Street Commissioner Lyle Kirby, City Engineer J. M. Weir, Corporation Counsel Byron Merris and City Clerk D. F. Davis.

H. L. Chastain, Member I.S.P.E. and Consulting Engineer, was appointed Water Commissioner of Decatur

on March 8, 1950. Mr. Chastain succeeds the late Bushrod Sattley as chief of the Decatur Water Department. He has been a member of the State Society since 1938 and of the National Society since 1948.

Other society members in city government in Decatur jobs are: John Weir, City Engineer; Jim Nolan, Assistant City Engineer; James MacKechnie, Park District; William Eisele, Water Works; W. D. Hatfield, Superintendent Sanitary District. We also have an affiliate member in the Decatur High School, Mr. Harry Meinert. In county jobs we have the following: Alan Buck, Superintendent Macon County Highway Department; Troy O. Timm, County Highway; G. C. Miller, Logan County Highway Department; William G. Hunt, County Highway Department.

FINAL REPORT ON THE BUILDING PROJECT

P. E. Roberts, Assistant Secretary

That the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers would have to seek new quarters in a short time was an undisputed fact early in 1949. For over twenty-five years the work of the Society has been carried on from the office of its Secretary, Professor Harold E. Babbitt. In the 1920's and 1930's, it was an excellent arrangement for both the Society and Professor Babbitt but as the work and the personnel increased, Room 204 Civil Engineering Hall on the campus of the University of Illinois became much too crowded for efficient work.

Investigation

The proposal was made at the very beginning that, if the Society could acquire and operate an office building several times larger than it needed for its own use, two problems could be solved simultaneously. The first consideration was to provide adequate office space for the present and any future expansion needs and the second to build an estate through a self-liquidating investment. A solution to each problem could have been found independently of the other but there were so many points in common that the attempt was made to solve them together.

A brief survey was all that was necessary to determine that office space in Champaign-Urbana in a modern office building was both high priced and not readily available. A survey of business lots suitable for a small modern office building disclosed that property was available but not low priced. Plans and a perspective sketch were drawn for a building of the size, shape and of the greatest functional use. An estimate of the cost of the proposed structure totaled \$70,000 and the property cost was \$15,000. A Board of Direction meeting was called in March and the building project presented. The project was well received by the Board of Direction and from the reports from the chapters, the interest of the membership was immediate and intense.

The Bargain

Shortly after the new building proposal was presented to the Board, the Society was offered a partially burned

structure at 608 South Sixth Street, Champaign, Illinois for a total cost of \$10,000 in its then present condition. The location was ideal for the Society for it was within one block of the University of Illinois campus. The ground alone was appraised at \$9,500 and two contractors independently estimated that the remaining masonry, excavation, roof and floors which were usable were worth \$17,000. In other words, the Society was offered a \$26,000 value for \$10,000. The Board of Direction authorized the Executive Committee to take an option and deliver a check for \$1,000 as part payment. In several meetings of the Executive Committee, many proposed plans of financing the building project were studied. It finally became the conviction of the committee that the financing could be done within the Society by offering 4½% 20-year bonds to the membership. All steps on the plan were prepared for presentation to the Board of Direction at its next meeting.

Plans and an estimate of the cost of remodeling were made and it was determined that the rebuilding would cost plus or minus \$40,000 which together with the \$10,000 price of the burned structure made an investment of \$50,000 and would give the Society a modern office building worth about \$65,000.

A canvass was made to find prospective tenants. One government agency made a tentative agreement to take the entire second floor of "608" and another national group made a reservation for half of the first floor. After saving 600 square feet for its own office, the project was practically rented on five-year terms. The rental income would have produced \$9,200 per year with expenses of \$4,750 per year, leaving a net income of \$4,450 per year to liquidate the bonds and cover contingencies. The investment was of the order of high return with a low possible loss.

Financing

At the June 4th Board of Direction meeting in Urbana, a prospectus of the proposed plan of remodeling and financing 608 South Sixth Street was presented. They accepted the prospectus and recommended that the membership be invited to make bond subscriptions. Using the prospectus as a basis, a brochure was prepared detailing the building project story. A mailing to all corporate and non-corporate members was sent out on June 23rd. The financial campaign continued from June 23rd to October 1st. By July 15th, \$30,000 had been subscribed in cash and was on deposit in the bank. This amount came from 124 subscriptions for an average of \$240.00. There was little actual solicitation within the chapters except by telephone. Most of the subscriptions were spontaneous and all were voluntary, that is, there was no pressure used in getting any subscriptions. The smallest amount subscribed from any one chapter was \$400 from three subscriptions and the largest amount from one chapter was \$8,300 from 34 subscriptions. In total, there were 140 subscriptions and \$33,600 in cash deposited in the bank.

The individual subscriptions varied in size from two

\$1,000 subscriptions to sixty-seven \$100 subscriptions. The greatest percentage of the total amount subscribed (40%) was in \$400 checks. It is interesting to note that 62.6% of the total amount subscribed was in \$400, \$500 and \$1,000 amounts.

During the financial campaign, a legal block was thrown in the way of the project in the form of a suit for \$25,000 by the tenant against the owner of the property. As this suit prevented a transfer of title, further solicitation for bond subscriptions was suspended. The Executive Committee voted to hold the building project in status quo until such time as it could be safely resumed. In October the Board of Direction approved a letter to be sent to the bond subscribers giving them three options: (A) Leave the money on deposit until July 1, 1950 without interest; (B) Give the bond subscriber the privilege of requesting the return of his money on 30 days notice; (C) Request the immediate return of his money. Out of the 140 cards sent out there were 90 replies voting as follows: 68 voted option (A), 16 voted option (B); and 6 subscribers, for a total amount of \$1,000, voted option (C).

Marking Time

From October 1949 to the middle of January 1950 several meetings were held with the lawyers in the attempt to find some way in which the Society could safely go ahead with the project. In February the suit was ruled upon by the circuit judge in favor of the owner. So far as the owner was concerned he had no further to bother from the suit but even then he could not give clear title to the Society because of the wording of the lease. In a few words, the Society could not spend any money on the property without facing a possible possession suit any time before the expiration of the lease or until July 1, 1951. The tenant was approached and asked to give a stipulation on possession to the Society but he flatly refused to do so.

At the Annual Meeting in January, the whole story was retold at the Business Meeting after the Board of Direction once again confirmed the work of its Executive Committee and passed the recommendations of the committee on to the Society for action. Of the five recommendations made by the Executive Committee, only two are of interest now: Plan No. 1 and Plan No. 5. The first was to buy the lease from the tenant or buy a stipulation on possession, and the latter, to drop the entire project and return the money to the subscribers. The Board recommended to the membership that Plan No. 1—try to buy the lease, etc.—with the limitation that the offer not exceed \$1,000, and if the money offered could not obtain possession by July 1, 1950, then proceed to Plan No. 5—i.e. drop the whole thing. The recommendation was accepted by the membership at the Business Meeting, who then voted that the question be decided by the entire corporate membership by letter ballot. A mailing piece was sent out containing the entire report of the Executive Committee and a business reply card to record the vote. The proposal voted on,

(Continued on page 14)

The Department of Registration and Education, State of Illinois

by NOBLE J. PUFFER, Director

Address Given Before the 65th Annual Banquet, Decatur, January 27, 1950

President Whelan, Professional Associates and Friends:
It is an honor to gather with you tonight on the occasion of your 65th Annual Banquet. I bring to you greetings from the State of Illinois and Governor Stevenson, as Director of the Department of Registration and Education.

I am glad to announce at this time the appointment of Carter Jenkins to the Board of Professional Engineers of the Department of Registration and Education, to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of J. A. Tomlin. Mr. Jenkins is a distinguished engineer of the State of Illinois and had the proper professional endorsement. I am sure he will, as a member of this important examining board, reflect credit to you and the State of Illinois. My acquaintance with the members of the Professional Engineers Examining Committee who represent you and the State of Illinois, in determining the fitness of candidates for examination as professional engineers, has been a most pleasant one. I have found the various members very capable, intensely interested in their responsibility and very able men.

You probably think of the Department of Registration and Education as a licensing agency. Occasionally you may have thought of it as having something to do with the licensing of barbers and beauticians but perhaps you have not thought of it as a much broader Department, concerned with the licensure of all professions and occupations in the State of Illinois with the exception of teachers, lawyers and insurance brokers. We examine and license nurses, doctors, dentists, architects, structural engineers, surveyors, detectives, chiropodists, general directors and embalmers, horseshoers, optometrists, pharmacists, plumbers, real estate brokers and veterinarians and some other minor divisions. If the work of the Director of the Department were confined only to this type of licensure it would be a full-time responsibility, but the Legislature through the Civil Administrative Code has added to the divisions of the Department the following: Teachers College Board, of which your Director is chairman; the Board for Vocational Education; again the Director being the chairman; and the three scientific surveys housed at the University of Illinois, Natural History, Geological and Water Surveys. In addition the Department also has included in its budget, and the responsibility for the supervision of the State Museum, located in the Centennial Building. Thus this Department has a total of five divisions for which the Director is personally responsible, whose budgets are a part of his overall \$20,000,000.00 appropriation for the biennium.

As a former County Superintendent of Schools who served in Cook County, I have a particularly keen interest in the work of Registration, in the Teachers College Division and in the work of the three scientific surveys. I am also very much interested in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation which is one of the facets of the work of the Board for Vocational Education. To spend my time, my energy and my thoughts in these five major areas is quite a problem and at times I have wondered whether it were possible to do justice to all five. At times the answer seems obvious that it is not a feasible or a practical matter.

As a matter of fact, I have suggested to the so-called "Little Hoover Commission" of which Professor Walter Schaefer is the chairman, that they should direct their attention to this Department in their study of various Departments of the State with the thought of possible reorganization or reallocation of responsibilities. When you think that there are five divisions in the Department, approximately 1,847 employees and a budget of \$20,000,000.00 involved, you can understand the problems which confront any Director. You can appreciate the many areas in which he must be conversant with the problems confronting him in order to aid in the direction and supervision of the work.

Returning now to the Division of Registration, may I say that it is my own judgment that the success of the work of this department is very closely connected with the quality of members of the various examining committees. The standards which they set for examination, the interest they put into their work and the attention they give to the screening of candidates will determine the quality which will be licensed by the State of Illinois. There is no possibility of doing an honest, capable job, one of which we can all be proud on these committees, unless the quality of the members is high, and professional interest keen.

I believe the old fashioned politician, the man being paid off for party service, has no place on these committees and I will have no part of appointing such a type of individual to serve the State of Illinois in such responsible positions. However, I want to be perfectly frank in telling you, my friends, that wherever replacements are necessary on various boards, they will be made from a list of qualified, capable candidates recommended by the various professional groups with whom I will consult, and they will be Democrats. We have the responsibility of administering government for Illinois at the present time, and we have the quality of personnel available who can perform these services with credit to the State of Illinois.

Not all the work of the Department is concerned with the examination of candidates for licensure. The other phase of our work, equally important, is the enforcement of existing statutes in Illinois governing the Department of Registration and Education. Our work in this field is divided into two types. One is "general inspection" to see that people in the various trades and professions are properly licensed to do business in the State of Illinois. The second phase of our work, and in many ways even more important, is to make "special investigations" of complaints filed with the Department, of unlicensed individuals operating in the field of medicine, plumbing, barber shop, beauty shop, engineering, architecture and so on.

It is essential that in preparing a case where a complaint is filed, that the Department be very fair, be courteous, and be very careful in gathering data on the investigation. In most instances the data must be the type that would be evidence in a court case later.

Generally speaking, unlicensed individuals must be arrested, and brought to trial by the state's attorney of the county in which they have been operating. A good example of this occurred right here in Macon County where we brought two plumbers to trial for installing plumbing without licenses. We gathered our evidence carefully, but the county court held in favor of the unlicensed plumbers and ruled the plumbing act unconstitutional. We believe that the ruling was not on the basis of the law, that it set aside all rules covering licensure of plumbing, and was too important a decision not to take an immediate appeal to the Appellate Court and if necessary to the Supreme Court. We have the complete cooperation of Attorney General Ivan Elliott in this case and he will carry on for us.

Many times we do not get convictions; many times we do. Where we have prepared evidence well and the case is clear-cut and the violation specific, apparent to one and all, we usually are successful.

In the field of investigation, I should like to report to you that the Department at the close of 1949 had completed 94,997 investigations and general inspections with a staff consisting of 12 less field investigators than the Department had in 1948. In that period, the year 1948, 51,257 field investigations and inspections were made. In other words, with 12 less field investigators we have done practically twice the amount of work in enforcing the law. I think it is something to call your attention to and to be a little proud of.

I think those of you who have met the present investigators will generally agree that they are courteous, that they are kindly, that they are fair and that they are thorough. If you do not find them of this type, I would consider it a personal favor if you'd write me and tell me about any experiences which did not measure up to the standards I have set for the field investigators.

It should further interest you to know that the travel money expended by our inspectors during the year 1948 totaled \$37,843.83. For the year 1949, in which we dou-

bled the number of investigations and inspections with 12 less field investigators, the total is only \$33,297.00 or approximately \$4,600.00 less money for twice the amount of work done.

I cite this as an example of what we are trying to do in the Department to render efficient public service at the lowest cost consistent with efficiency and thoroughness. We have regular schools for our inspectors in which we train them to make a proper investigation involving courtesy, fair treatment and service to the person being inspected and then prepare them to gather evidence in an efficient way.

I ask for suggestions from my employees, suggestions on how we can improve their working conditions. That reminds me of the story of an employer I read about who had spent a great deal of money to insure that his men should work under the best conditions. "Now whenever I enter the workshop," he said, "I wait to see that every man cheerfully performs his task. Therefore I invite you to place in this box any further suggestions as to how that can be brought about." A week later the box was opened and it contained only a slip of paper on which was written "*Don't wear rubber heels.*"

Well, some of the suggestions we get are about the same type, but generally they are constructive and do think result in better handling of complaints and assist us in advising our field investigators how to do their work in a more efficient manner. We get queer answers on application blanks, some of them so silly that you would not believe it possible. In connection with these queer answers, I'd like to tell you the story I heard the other day about a tax assessor who ran across one of the best answers that he ever had to a question on a tax assessment blank. The question was "Nature of the taxpayer." The answer was "Very mean."

Well, sometimes letters come into the office that are rather vindictive and spiteful, usually because someone has been disappointed in not being licensed, but occasionally because the Department in the past has not rendered the service it should have on complaints. I learned very early in my experience in this Department that we should not only give service on complaints, but that we should acknowledge receipt of the complaints to the person who have sent them. This little courtesy is important but I had not realized it at the beginning until it was called rather forcibly to my attention. A group felt that their complaints were probably being handled all right but they weren't quite sure because our office had not acknowledged the receipt of such complaints and no disposition made. They were not griping but they thought it was a better procedure and I agreed with them promptly.

You know, ladies and gentlemen, I am very much restricted tonight by preparing a paper to be read before you. I think I could talk much more fluently and effectively if I were not confined to the remarks which I have prepared here. The reason for preparing such a paper

to the request of William A. Oliver, your editor of *Illinois Engineer*, who wants a copy of this speech subsequent publication in the *Illinois Engineer*.

Now that has its advantages because if I say something worthwhile, the message will reach other engineers who were unable to attend this annual meeting. On the other hand, if I stick my neck out and say things that will be interpreted politically, it has its disadvantages. I am frank to say I thought a good deal about the matter before I finally sat down to prepare this speech. Indeed, you are chaffing about the dullness of it. From my part, you can blame Mr. Oliver. Had it not been for his request, I am frank to say I would have spoken off the-cuff. I would have been much happier about it and I think you would have been, too.

I have really not thoroughly covered the Division of Registration, but I should like to hasten on to talk to you briefly about the work of the three scientific surveys at the University of Illinois Campus.

They are headed by such outstanding men as Dr. M. M. Lighton, Dr. A. M. Buswell, and Dr. H. M. Mills, who I believe are known to some of you and are widely respected in this state.

As a result of the work done in the field of geology here, Illinois has had accessible to it information about the locations of oil pools, coal fields, fluorspar deposits, and deposits and has had data presented honestly and usefully.

Our Geological Survey plotted on a map many years ago, the general areas in which oil could be found. The findings to date justify the predictions made by the Survey and prove that the work was done scientifically and properly.

I could talk a long time about the work of this Department, but in all fairness, I should proceed to say that the work of the Water Survey Division under Dr. Buswell is making very significant contributions in the field of water erosion research, silting of water reservoirs in the State, and is working very closely with large industries in various parts of the State, more recently in Georgia, in connection with research on the underground supply of water.

You know the water table in Illinois has dropped dangerously fast in the past twenty-five years, due to the lack of proper cover on the ground, the cultivation of our fields and the cutting down of our forests which tend to retard the flow of water. As a result, so much run-off water is lost to the soil that the water table has dropped seriously in many areas. Then, too, the development of large industrial centers has drawn so heavily on water supply that it becomes a very serious problem how to get the necessary water for industry. Dr. Buswell and his staff have been engaged in an experiment of recharging underground water and have a process which has every indication of being not only efficient but economical. There are other studies in which his Department has made significant contributions to problems presented by industry. I haven't time to note them here tonight.

In the Natural History Survey Division, Dr. Harlow Mills, chief, has been engaged for some time in the study of lead poisoning of ducks in Illinois hunting preserves. The Survey is working closely with those in the field of agriculture, studying the problem of the corn borer and its control.

One of the interesting experiments conducted by his department is that of the proper balance in the stocking of fish in small lakes. The experiment is being carried out at Ridge Lake in Fox Ridge State Park near Charleston. The eighteen acre lake is drained and the fish censused at two-year intervals. It is usually done in March and before June the first the fish are returned to the lake. The problem is a proper balance between bass and bluegills in stocking the lake. We have proven that this is not the proper answer for we have found from our experiments that bass and bluegills are not a good combination.

We are working on a new combination and the results of this study may be very interesting and profitable to those who want to stock their own lakes and have a plentiful supply of legal fish, particularly bass, available.

Turning quickly to the work of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation let me say that at the close of last year we had rehabilitated more than 3,000 people and that their earnings as a result of our program of rehabilitation total \$4,000,000 for that period. To say that this is constructive is putting it rather moderately for had not this program been undertaken by the Department, in all probability they (the rehabilitants) would have been wards of the State, who would have had to be cared for at State expense. The program returns tremendous dividends in terms of our investment of time and funds in educating these worthy cases, for they are carefully screened before the educational program is begun.

Dr. Cline, the State Supervisor, is not content with merely training people, for his job is not done until these trainees have been placed in productive job situations where they are earning a living for themselves. I think it is one of the most interesting phases of the work being done at public expense to reduce further expense to taxpayers, for we make self-supporting those who might become public charges.

I'd like to tell you, too, that we have in Springfield in the Centennial Building, on the fifth and sixth floors, one of the finest small scientific museums to be found in the State, outside the city of Chicago. The work is under the direction of Dr. Thorne Deuel, a very capable museum director, who has prepared many interesting exhibits of early Illinois history, early Illinois life and dioramas depicting significant events in Illinois history. Thousands of school children from all over the State make annual or semi-annual pilgrimages to view these exhibits. The interest in the exhibits has grown tremendously in the last three or four years, possibly because of the advantages we now have in getting buses

to transport children, but particularly because we have an interesting, live and worthwhile museum to show to our boys and girls at both elementary and high school level. When they come here to Springfield, it is the high spot of their trips, so their teachers tell me.

I feel confident that Illinois will continue to support this fine project and give it the proper housing which it needs, to display even more choice exhibitions that are now in storage because of lack of space.

In closing, let me say the thought of my staff and myself is that in all of our relationships with the public,

we are to give service to all the people; not to any particular political party. We are to be courteous, efficient and helpful, and we will try to understand and help solve the problems that you and anyone else feel should be brought to our attention.

We want to do a job that will reflect credit on one and all in the State of Illinois, and on Governor Stevenson.

I am grateful for the opportunity of meeting with you tonight. I will get to know some of you much better as time goes by, and may I say that all my relationships to date have been very pleasant. My door is open to you.

News From Chapters

NOTE TO CHAPTER SECRETARIES

In order to have Chapter Minutes included in a given issue of the ILLINOIS ENGINEER, they should be in the hands of the Editor before the last day of the preceding month. They should preferably be typewritten, double spaced on an opaque paper.

St. Clair Chapter

The February dinner meeting of the St. Clair Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers was held on Tuesday evening, February 21, 1950, at the Stop-Light Tavern on Kingshighway and St. Clair Avenue, East St. Louis, Illinois.

Twenty-nine members and guests attended the meeting.

President S. C. Casteel called the meeting to order at 8:00 p. m. He then introduced the new officers and read the names of members selected for various committees for the new year. The secretary read a report for Mr. R. G. Brierley, Chapter Representative, on activities at the Annual Meeting at Decatur. Following this report President Casteel read the Capital Chapter letter with regards to the proposed building in Urbana.

Mr. F. G. Olbrich presented resolution in memory of Mr. P. S. Shepard, seconded by Mr. L. J. Keenan and approved by the attending members.

Mr. F. W. Moore announced a Joint Meeting with the Illinois Association of Highway Engineers on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, at Oyster Inn, East St. Louis.

The guest speaker for the evening was Dr. James Newsome, Chief of Research and Development in the Aluminum Industry. Processing methods developed in obtaining alumina from low-grade bauxite ore were discussed; he also told about the separating of gallium, a rare metal, from certain low-grade bauxite ores.

Mr. F. Meek thanked the speaker in behalf of the Society.

MANUEL GARCIA, *Secretary.*

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, God in His infinite wisdom has removed from our midst, our worthy member, Pardon S. Shepard, and

WHEREAS, Pardon S. Shepard gave unsparingly of his efforts in behalf of the St. Clair Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers, having served as its President and on numerous committees, and

WHEREAS, his absence will be keenly felt by the chapter and all its members; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Clair Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers, in regular meeting assembled, do hereby express its sympathy to the bereaved family in their loss, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and also that a copy be sent to the bereaved family.

The above resolution was passed by the St. Clair Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers in regular meeting assembled on Feb. 21, 1950.

S. C. CASTEEL, *President*

MANUEL GARCIA, *Secretary*

Chicago Chapter

The meeting was held at the Chicago Engineers' Club, Feb. 23, 1950, where dinner was served to 35 members at 6:30 p. m.

After the dinner, with President C. A. Walls presiding, on a motion by Mr. Gunlock, seconded by Mr. Ingelstrom, the reading of minutes of the previous meeting were dispensed with since they had been published in the Illinois Engineer.

Mr. Wayne Wallace was called upon to give an account of the Decatur Convention. He gave a brief résumé on what seemed to be the most important subject—the disposition of the building to be acquired at Urbana as State Headquarters. Mr. Gunlock followed and elaborated on the subject, giving the history of the project to date and explaining the letter ballot sent to members.

It was the consensus of opinion that the propositions which were to be voted on and the form of the ballot were confusing and much discussion was had on the meaning of them. There was no definite decision on what was meant but the opinion seemed to be that a vote of "yes" would mean an agreement to consummate the deal and a vote of "no" to drop it entirely.

On the question about State Headquarters in other states, Mr. Robbins, our National Executive Director who was present as guest speaker, informed us that most headquarters were at state capitols where a paid representative looked out for legislation pertaining to the State.

ty, while the Legislature was in session. To his knowledge, no State Society owned its own building.

President Walls read the appointments made to the following committees:

Program—Prof. Frank Edwards.

Membership—Leo M. DesAutels.

Registration and Laws—Alois Graf.

Ethics and Practices—Prof. Hawkins of Illinois Institute of Technology.

Reception Committee—Harold Sommerscheidt.

The meeting was then turned over to the Program Chairman, Prof. Edwards, who introduced the guest speaker, Paul H. Robbins, Executive Director, N.S.P.E. Mr. Robbins' subject concerned the "Current Activities of N. S. P. E." His speech covered the following:

1. Present thinking on "Professionalism."
2. The activities of the Committee on "Unity."
3. The eight-point program for gaining membership.
4. Military affairs.
5. Coordination of salary and fee schedules on a National level.
6. Point Four of the Truman program with which N. S. P. E. agrees only in principle.
7. The Taft-Hartley Law.
8. The effect of Wage-Hour and Social Security Legislation on the Engineer.

The meeting was concluded by President Walls with expression of thanks to Mr. Robbins for his excellent presentation and with the presentation of Mr. Gunlock, Vice-President of the Illinois Society.

EDWARD L. REITER, *Secretary*.

Annual Meeting Rockford Chapter

The meeting opened at 8:00 p. m., Jan. 12, 1950, by Ernest Middaugh, president. The minutes of the previous meeting and a treasurer's report were given by the secretary-treasurer, Fred L. Fletcher. The meeting was then devoted to the election of officers for the ensuing year. The following officers were elected:

President—William Howard.

Vice-President—S. W. Carlson.

Chapter Representative—Elmer Toussaint.

Secretary-Treasurer—Fred L. Fletcher.

Elmer Toussaint gave a report on the National Society meeting in Houston. He was of the general impression that the Society was not of immediate interest to manufacturers but felt that in the future the situation might develop so they would be interested.

Ernest Middaugh gave a discussion of the Decatur convention and urged attendance.

Arnold Lundgren gave a talk on the President's Point Four Program. He was not in favor of the proposed legislation and the matter was tabled as being out of the scope of activities of the local chapter.

The Chapter Representative was instructed to secure definition of the area of the Rockford Chapter at the forthcoming State Meeting, to request help from the traveling Secretary in securing membership, and to request that the confusion of membership between the Rockford and Rock River Chapters be cleared up so that

the respective chapters could begin to operate on a businesslike basis.

Retiring President Middaugh then introduced the incoming president, William Howard, and the meeting was adjourned for the smorgasbord supper that followed.

Respectfully submitted,

FRED L. FLETCHER, *Secretary*.

Minutes of Board of Directors' Meeting Rockford Chapter

The meeting was opened at 8:30 p. m. in the Winnebago Room of the Faust Hotel by our president, William S. Howard. In attendance were Secretary-Treasurer Fred L. Fletcher, Chapter Representative Elmer M. Toussaint and Directors H. A. Riedesel and Arnold Lundgren.

Chapter Representative Toussaint reported that all members of the Society living in the four counties of Jo Daviess, Stevenson, Winnebago and Boone will be members of the Rockford Chapter and refunds on their dues will be paid to the Rockford Chapter. Any other affiliations will not be registered officially with the State Society.

Secretary Fletcher was directed to send the minutes of the Annual January Meeting to the State Society.

A discussion was held on the April meeting and the following program was decided upon:

- A. Elmer Toussaint will give a report on the State Meeting.
- B. A panel will be set up and questions will be answered by the panel on any problems pertaining to the Society. The members of the panel and their subjects for discussion are as follows:

1. Arnold Lundgren—The Mechanics of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers.
2. Elmer Toussaint—The Employer's View of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers.
3. William H. Day—Legislative Activities of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers.
4. Charles Debes—Fees and Salaries.
5. Kirk Taylor—The Employee's Reaction to the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers.

Thursday, April 13th, was selected as the date of the meeting.

The following were selected to head the different committees of the Rockford Chapter:

Gilbert Henning—Program Committee.

Vernie G. Lindstrom—Advertising and Publicity Committee.

William Day—Legislative Analyst.

S. W. Carlson—Membership Committee.

William Day—Military Affairs Committee.

Charles Debes—Registration Law Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

FRED L. FLETCHER, *Secretary*.

Lake County

The regular monthly meeting of the Lake County Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers was held Wednesday, February 15, 1950, at the Chateau du Jour restaurant. Dinner was served to 42 members and guests.

The business meeting was called to order by President Simonsen at 7:55 p. m. The minutes of the meeting of January 18 were read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved. Chairman Brown reported that he had contacted Mayor Coulsen regarding the appointment of a member of the chapter to the planning commission and had been advised that in view of the fact that two of our members were ex-officio members of the commission that he felt that we were amply represented. The mayor advised Chairman Brown that there would be considerable specialized work to be done later by additional non-members of the commission and that he would appreciate any of our recommendations. Chairman Brown announced that he was in the process of preparing this list and would forward it to the mayor in the near future.

Mr. Klarkowski reported on the presentation of the chapter's Anniversary gift to Mr. Babbitt and read Mr. Babbitt's note of thanks. President Simonsen read a letter from the Red Cross asking the chapter's financial assistance. In view of the fact that it is not the policy of the chapter to make any donations to any organization, no action was taken. Mr. Williams of the Junior Chamber of Commerce gave a short report on the activities of his organization to have the report of the Hoover Commission adopted by Congress and requested the members of the chapter to take individual action to assist their group. President Simonsen gave a resumé of the State Meeting of the Society and Representative Anderson gave a short report on the meeting of the Board of Direction.

At 8:30 p. m. President Simonsen turned the meeting over to Chairman Drew of the Program Committee, who in turn introduced Mr. Erskine and Mr. Miller of the Racine Tool and Machine Company. Mr. Erskine then presented a short movie on the fundamentals of Hydraulic Power and then gave a discussion on the applications of Hydraulics in Industry. There was then a discussion of points raised by members from the floor.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p. m.

M. T. ANDERSON, *Secretary*.

Madison County

A regular meeting of the Madison County Chapter was held February 14, 1950 in a private dining room of the Stratford Hotel in Alton. This joint meeting with members of the American Institute of Architects was attended by twenty-five members and guests, twenty-three of whom came for dinner.

After reading of minutes, Mr. Willis made a brief report of the Annual Meeting. President Flagg spoke of the two new committees, and appointed the following members to serve:

Legislative Analyst—H. A. Kluge, chairman; E. J. Wade.

Military Affairs—G. H. Shanahan, chairman; H. J. Schwaab, M. B. Corlew.

(Other Reserve Corps men may be appointed to this committee at a later date.)

Mr. Voorhees' motion fixed chapter dues same as last year. Carried.

Program Chairman Graham outlined plans for future meetings, and presented Mr. Abraham who had charge of this meeting with the Architects.

Mr. Ed Kane, past president of the Southern Illinois Chapter of the A. I. A., stated that today's affairs are run by organizations, which should act and work like professional men, and by a code of ethics, to build public esteem.

Mr. Abraham read the legislative definitions of Architect, Structural Engineer, and Professional Engineer and spoke in favor of one Architectural-Engineering Council to promote proper building codes, discuss common problems, and promote publicity. A general discussion of laws in other states led to thought of a common organization for professional men. Mr. Voorhees referred to the "National" Society as being Professional rather than Technical, and although it is younger than the "founding" societies, it may be the logical one to carry on toward a solution of the problem.

The meeting adjourned with an invitation from President Flagg to attend future meetings, and join the I. S. P. E.

March Meeting

A regular meeting of the Madison County Chapter was held Monday, March 13, 1950. The change from our usual meeting night of Tuesday was made to suit the available open date for use of the Edwardsville Gun Clubhouse.

Between 50 and 60 prospective members had been specially invited, and we had hoped to have some of the State officers present. However, the business meeting with its reading of minutes, committee reports, et cetera, was interluded with humorous stories by Messrs. Jacobson and Hunter, who began their entertainment feature with serious remarks on the subject "What Is a Joke?" They were ably assisted by some of the other guests, who were not to be outdone in an exchange of good humor.

Mr. Abraham spoke on the Aims and Activities of the Society. One of these is, to broaden the view of the engineer who is too prone to get satisfaction from the results of his labor, and reluctant to join groups who are interested in him, and his relation to the public.

Committee reports dealt with the proposed Belt Highway at Alton, the possibility of Federal financing on the River Road (with elimination of truck traffic), a proposed building code, and the matter of advertising in the Illinois Engineer.

Adjournment was at a late hour.

L. K. MEYER, *Sec.-Treas.*

Joliet Chapter

The regular February meeting of the Joliet Engineers' Club was held Tuesday evening, February 22, 1950, at the Candlelight, with 19 members and 18 guests present.

After dinner, the meeting was called to order at 7:50 p. m. by President Seiberling, who presided.

Because of the speaker's need to catch a train, the evening's program was presented first. The Program Committee chairman, Mr. William Chaney, introduced the speaker, Dr. W. F. Fair, Jr., of Koppers Co., Inc., and Mellon Institute, who gave a very interesting talk on the subject of "Corrosion and Its Prevention."

Following a very interesting discussion, the business meeting was called to order. The minutes of the January meeting were read and approved.

Past State President Mr. James Whelan reported discussion and action that took place at the State Convention concerning the State Headquarters building program.

Chapter Representative C. E. Rodgers also reported on the above and on the convention in general. All members were strongly urged to send in their letter ballots. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p. m.

March Meeting

The regular March meeting of the Joliet Chapter was held Tuesday evening, March 21, 1950, at the Candlelight, with 29 members and 9 guests present.

Following a very good dinner, the meeting was called to order at 8:00 p. m. by President Seiberling, who presided.

President Seiberling gave a brief talk on the welfare of the chapter and urged the membership to campaign for new members, and introduced two new members, Mr. Curt Preston and Mr. W. A. Weimer. He also mentioned the programs that have been scheduled for April and May.

A motion was made by Mr. Frank Campbell, seconded by Mr. M. S. Brown, that the chapter local yearly dues be raised to \$2.00 per year, effective for 1950. Motion carried unanimously.

It was duly moved and seconded that the Joliet Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers extend their sympathy to Mrs. Harry C. Sampson in her recent bereavement.

The program chairman, Mr. William Chaney, introduced Mr. Frank Clark, president and general manager of the Wm. E. Pratt Manufacturing Co., and Mr. Les Leeler, his assistant.

Mr. Clark gave a very interesting talk on the manufacture, composition and uses of malleable iron. A beautiful technicolor film entitled "The Story of Malleable Iron" was also presented and numerous castings of malleable iron, products of the Wm. E. Pratt Manufacturing Co., were shown.

Following a discussion on malleable iron, a second technicolor film on the construction of earth-moving equipment was shown.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p. m.

F. H. TITTSWORTH, *Secretary*.

Capital Chapter

Past President A. M. Frost opened the February 28, 1950 meeting of Capital Chapter, held at The Mill in

Springfield, Illinois. The meeting, preceded by a dinner, was attended by 51 members and 5 guests.

C. T. Morrisett, Alternate National Representative to N. S. P. E., was called upon to install the new officers. In charging the men with the responsibilities of their posts it was pointed out that the Society should be dedicating itself to looking after the interests of the professional engineer; that the State Board of Direction could only carry the wants of the engineers forward if the men kept the individual board members informed by active work in the Society's functions; and, that it was the obligation of the chapter officers to step up the pace of activities to improve public relations as well as to define the effectiveness of the Society's precepts. Members installed in office were J. P. Murphy, President; Gustav Rehm, Vice-President; L. D. Hudson, Secretary; and Arthur Kessell, Treasurer.

L. J. Wall, Representative, Department of Internal Revenue and National Vice-President of the Federal Employees Association, detailed the principles established in connection with income tax collection by the Federal Government. After itemizing the requirements, Mr. Wall entertained about an hour of questioning, clarifying individual points.

President Murphy discussed committee appointments and requested that each committee chairman report at the next regular meeting to present his program for the year. H. H. Cordes, chairman, Membership Committee, reported that the chapter would have a membership of 190 as soon as present applications were processed; that the chapter had 135 Nationals, 17 State, 30 E-I-Ts, 2 Juniors, and 6 Student members. Lee Stickler advised that the new Professional Engineering Refresher Course would be starting on March 6, 1950, as formally announced. R. S. Nelle, Chapter Representative, presented his report on the State Board of Direction meetings.

It was moved by L. K. Crawford, and seconded, that the chapter offer to handle the mailing of the literature of the national membership promotion, within the chapter's area of authority. Motion was passed unanimously and the Secretary was instructed to follow through for the completion of arrangements. A. P. Troemper then presented an article written in the February issue of the Ladies' Home Journal, under the column, "Journal About Town," which article humorously referred to a sanitary engineer in a way that indicated a disrespect for the professional engineer devoted to the sanitary sciences. It was moved by Troemper, and seconded, that the chapter secretary be instructed to write to the Editor of the Ladies' Home Journal, expressing the chapter's disapproval for the lack of professional recognition brought out by the article; and that the secretary be instructed to call the incident to the attention of the State and National Societies in order that they might also register objections to the magazine's editorial comments. The motion was passed without objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p. m. by motion.

L. D. HUDSON, *Secretary*.

Central Illinois Chapter

The February meeting of the Central Illinois Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers was held Thursday evening, Feb. 23, 1950, at the Greider Cafeteria, Decatur, Ill., at 6:30 p. m., with 48 members and guests being present.

Our new president announced the appointment of the following list of committee chairmen:

Advertising—M. R. Howard.
 Arrangements—E. A. Tertocha.
 Attendance—Gus G. Greanias.
 Civic Affairs—H. A. Meinert.
 Cooperation and Coordination—J. L. Howie.
 Directory—C. B. Howard.
 Ethics and Practice—J. F. Sweetnam.
 Legislative—H. L. Chastain.
 Legislative Analyst—A. W. Neureuther.
 Membership—B. D. Toney.
 Military Affairs—E. A. Shultz.
 Picnic—H. J. Burgener.
 Program—W. G. Scherer.
 Public Affairs—Nat Kessler.
 Registrative Law—J. R. Gardner.

President John Askren also reviewed the highlights of the convention held here in Decatur last month, stating that we were very happy to finish our job "in the black"

with all expenses paid. He thanked all the committee for their untiring efforts in making the convention success.

The following resolution was presented by Earl J. Cooper, and unanimously adopted, making our M. W. D. P. Warren an Honorary member of our local chapter, he having been presented with an Honorary State Membership at the convention in January:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, our (OWN) Mr. W. D. P. Warren was presented Honorary Membership by the "State Society of Professional Engineers" at the 65th Annual meeting held in Decatur January 27, 1950, in recognition of his long and continued service to the Society, the Central Illinois Chapter takes cognizance of the fact that, having a member of his calibre in its local Society is an honor which it appreciates.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That we instruct our Secretary to present him a copy of this resolution, including therewith an Honorary Membership Card from our local Chapter.

Mr. Fred Tratzik, one of our Central Illinois Chapter members, gave us an exceptionally good account of his recent two months trip to Europe. His colored slides gave us an excellent idea of what the European countries look like today. He stated that he was very glad to go back to the U. S. A., and likes this country best of all.

FLOYD E. TROXEL, *Secretary.*

Professional Unity at the Grass Roots

JAMES F. FAIRMAN, *President, A.I.E.E.*

Chairman, Committee on Intersociety Relations, N.S.P.E.

(Reprinted from the ELECTRICAL ENGINEER)

Full text of an address presented at the AIEE Fall General Meeting, Cincinnati, Ohio, October 17-21, 1949.

James F. Fairman is Vice-President, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc., New York, N. Y.

On many previous occasions we have used the term "grass roots" in our discussions of Institute activities. Probably when the term is used you assume, as I do, that it refers to the local units of national organizations such as our Sections, or to the individual members. Using the term in connection with professional unity serves to reinforce this idea of what we mean by "grass roots" because efforts have been made to encourage joint activity among local units on local problems in the hope that out of such co-operation there would evolve a better method of handling common problems at the national level of those organizations. In certain instances the results locally have been so encouraging that it is difficult for the members involved to understand why greater progress is not made at the national level. The evidence is largely negative but I suspect that part of the reason for the difficulty is due to the lack of a clear indication of interest on the part of the individual members in problems at the national level and of their wish that more could be done by their national societies about those problems.

But that is not what I shall discuss with you in this article. When I use the term "grass roots" in this discussion, I am thinking of the students in the engineering schools, the future members of the engineering profession and of its several organizations. I suggest that these are the true grass roots and that it is among them that we should begin to plan and to build for the future. To be sure, many of our engineering societies have student memberships and encourage the organization and support the work of student branches or chapters at the engineering schools. The societies have done and are doing an excellent job of promoting the technical development of students in their respective specialized fields. This work should be continued, nurtured, and constantly improved but it does not cover the whole of their interest in and responsibility to the students. There are other and equally important needs for which less adequate provision has been made. Moreover, the existence of distinct curricula in the major branches of engineering and the establishment of separate student organizations by the several national engineering societies has had a perfectly natural, though I think unfortunate, tendency to emphasize the division rather than the essential unity of the engineering profession. Also, in spite of these ev-

nesses of our altruistic interest in the students as future members of the profession it sometimes seems that we are more concerned about enlisting them as future members of our several organizations and that more effort is directed toward using the student branches as recruiting agencies rather than as a means of supplementing the formal education of the students with information and points of view which would better prepare them for entrance into a profession.

Proposed Group Action

Let me be specific as to some of the things that we might do as individuals and as organizations interested in the problem. As national organizations, if we really believe in the unity of the engineering profession and that it may be desirable to have some over-all organization as an expression of that unity, why not start by encouraging the establishment of a single student engineering society at each engineering school. By all means, let us keep the existing student branches or chapters as technical divisions of the student society but let us not hamper them by a lot of rules and regulations. Rather, let us use them as laboratories in which to experiment. Let us encourage membership in the student society among freshmen and sophomores as well as among juniors and seniors. Let us continue to offer student membership in our national organizations for nominal dues to any student who desires it for the purpose of obtaining the publications of one or more of the societies.

Let us accept for the next higher grade of membership in a national organization, without admission or transfer fee within a reasonable time after graduation, any student who was a member of the student engineering society, whether or not he was a student member of one of the national societies. That should suffice for recruiting purposes. Then let us tackle the real job of helping the faculties give the students a better understanding of what it means to be a member of a profession.

Proposed Individual Action

How should we go about this? Here is where individuals as well as local groups can be most helpful. Student organizations like most other organizations want speakers for their meetings. They could be encouraged to invite and I believe they would welcome speakers who could tell them something about the facts of life after graduation. In the process of telling the story we should have a wonderful opportunity, without laboring the point, to supplement what they have been told in the classroom about the necessity of using the written and spoken word effectively and the fact that their education is a continuing process. We could get across to them the concept of engineering as a co-operative enterprise and hence the necessity of give and take in practical everyday affairs. We might convince them that a great deal of their future success will depend upon their ability to get along with other people. A discussion of getting along with other people could introduce the concept of professional ethics, but we don't have to scare them by using that term as the announced subject of our

remarks. It also involves the idea of the individual's obligation to serve his profession and society, and incidentally himself, by using the mechanism of organization for the exchange of information and experience and for the attainment of specific objectives. By our own attitude we may best demonstrate the real satisfaction which results from sharing our experiences and serving our profession. We may even be able to convince them that the more tangible returns are usually in proportion to the value of the individual's contributions to society and that mahogany desks are not passed out with diplomas but come as a result of demonstrated ability.

Then there are inspection trips. These are always welcomed by student organizations. Here is another opportunity not only for giving the students a glimpse of the engineering world outside academic walls but of talking to them briefly, individually or as a group, about engineering as a profession under circumstances which might find them in a particularly receptive mood.

Summer Employment and Student Guidance

Summer employment, if properly handled, can be mutually advantageous to the students and to the employer. I shall touch on only that aspect which is pertinent to my thesis. The student should not be given some routine job and forgotten. Some engineer who is interested in what we are trying to do and who is competent to do it should be assigned as the student's counselor. He should explain the company's operations and how the individual's work fits into the scheme of things. He should answer questions. He should encourage discussion on all sorts of problems, technical, economic, social, and political. A good time and place for such discussions is after dinner in the counselor's home.

Conferences with individual students at our own places of business might logically develop from these initial contacts. The possibilities here are tremendous. It would take some of our time but if enough of us would work at it, it should not be an excessive burden on anyone. And it would be a convincing demonstration of our belief in the gospel we would be attempting to spread.

Some of us do some of these things more or less sporadically and on request. My point is, we should seek more opportunities of this kind to serve the profession of the future and thereby to discharge part of our own obligation to the profession of the past. Many of us have been too prone to blame colleges for the shortcomings of the educational product. We have criticized, sometimes constructively, but we have not done as much as we might have to assist the faculties in preparing students for their future careers. We need not wait on organization for these opportunities. The opportunities exist. Let's take advantage of them individually.

Accent on Unity

In all of this effort, I suggest that our emphasis should be on the oneness of the profession, not only on the fact that our approach to problems, our method of attack, our processes of analysis, our fundamental technology

are something we hold in common, but that our problems in the social, economic, and political fields, resulting from our own technological achievements or from external factors, are matters to which the attention of a united profession should be directed. We can arouse the students' interest in those problems and challenge the students to handle them more effectively than we have in our generation.

There has been a great deal of discussion about the content of engineering curricula and the number of years of formal education required properly to prepare the student for an engineering career. I do not intend to go into this matter except to suggest that I think a great deal of confusion is due to the fact that we practicing engineers have not given a clear and considered expression of our opinion to the schools.

For example, on the one hand some of us maintain that we want sound training in the fundamentals at the expense of specialization; on the other hand some of us say that we want the graduate to be of immediate use to us in our particular business. I wonder if we ourselves are not confused as to the distinction between the engineer and the technician, between an individual having a professional outlook and one possessing only a specialized skill. There is need for both types of people but I submit there is a vast difference in the training that each should receive. I suspect that many technicians leave our schools under the impression that they have been trained to be engineers and are disappointed when they find it difficult to obtain or hold positions of truly professional caliber. Conversely graduates with adequate professional preparation are understandably unhappy in positions requiring only technical skill. It should be helpful to all concerned, faculties, students, and employers, if we could make some reasonably satisfactory distinction and by proper selection, guidance, and education, prepare individuals for the career to which they are best suited. By taking a more active interest in this problem as an obligation which we owe to our profession and to society, perhaps we may arrive at a time when the profession will determine the desirable content and duration of an engineering education.

Our Opportunity

This problem of engineering education is not my main theme. I mention it as part of the larger problem, one about which we should be doing something more constructive than we have in the past. The point of my remarks is that we have a tremendous opportunity to foster professional unity at the grass roots by working with the engineering students and by our attitude, as individuals and as organizations, indicating that engineering is more than technology, that it is a profession, and that it is one profession in spite of appearances to the contrary.

As many of you are aware, the Institute, in co-operation with the Institute of Radio Engineers, took a tentative step in this direction in 1946 by providing for the establishment of joint student branches and went on

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record as being willing to try a similar arrangement with other national engineering societies. Recently, the American Society of Civil Engineers invited representatives of a number of national engineering societies to a conference on the problem. The AIEE was represented by the chairman of the Committee on Student Branches, Director F. O. McMillan. The first meeting, held September 12, was necessarily only exploratory. A second meeting is tentatively scheduled for January. Probably a number of meetings will be required before the conference can produce definite proposals for the consideration of the several societies represented.

I shall offer these proposals for their consideration. I offer them for yours. You and they may disagree with me on the method but I am confident we all agree on the objective. I, for one, believe that it is high time for a venture of faith. But regardless of what we may do as national organizations, let us as individuals and as local groups, show our faith in the future of our profession by our works among the next generation of engineers.

FINAL REPORT ON BUILDING PROJECT

(Continued from page 4)

stated in the ballot, was Plan No. 1 with a time limit of July 1, 1950. The vote was 220 Yes and 297 No. Because of the confusion of the statement of the issue and the failure of Plan No. 1, the Executive Committee felt the wishes of the Society were to proceed to Plan No. 5. Checks were sent out on March 13th and "Reconciliation in Peace" was written over the Building Project.

Conclusion

The immediate effect of the abandonment of the building project was the loss of an obtainable objective for the Society. More than any other one activity, the building project did focus the attention of the whole Society on an obtainable goal. In any organization, we learn by doing—may the lessons which we learned from the rise and fall of the building project make the Illinois Society stronger and more closely knit.

The less you know how to do your work the harder it is to do.—H. L. Doherty.

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CENTRAL ILLINOIS CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

All members of the Central Illinois Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers.

As reported by your President in our February Chapter meeting, the following policies were formulated in a meeting of your Executive Committee on February 16, 1950. These were taken from your President's notes and anyone interested in the official minutes can see them by contacting Floyd Troxel, our worthy Secretary-Treasurer. These policies are formulated to guide and coordinate our various activities and committees throughout the year.

Meeting Night: The fourth Thursday of each month, except July recess and August picnic, is designated as our meeting night.

Meeting Place: Preferably in the same location each year, particularly during the bad months of December, January, and February, in which they should be held in downtown Decatur. Meetings away from Decatur are desirable if they stimulate attendance and increase membership.

Ladies' Night: Your executive committee is in favor of a Ladies' Night with a short semi-technical talk or entertainment.

Boys' Night: This is highly desirable and should have a program explaining our Society, what is an engineer's career, and what engineers do.

State President's Night: Your local President has extended an invitation to our State officers and is to set the date.

Public Shows: A public show once a year is a "must" for this Society.

Beer Bust or Stag: The Executive Committee is in favor of a stag, or stags, to be on dates different from those of our regular meeting nights and confined to members and their guests. This is to be in the interest of good fellowship, better attendance, and increased membership and isn't to be too much of a drain on the treasury.

Information to Members: Through "WHISPERS" and other means put out more information from the Chapter and State headquarters. We should do an even better job of keeping the members informed.

Directory: We should continue with our Chapter Di-

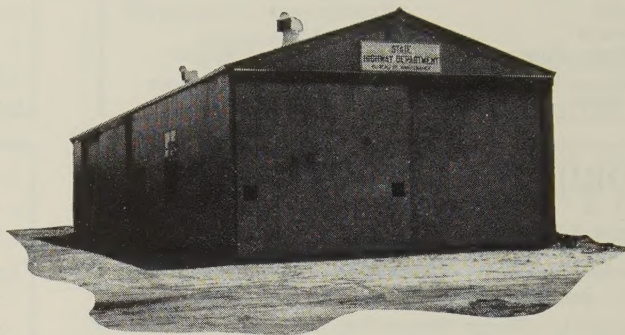
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rectory of the same quality and usefulness as we have since 1942. Byron Toney, Chairman of Membership Committee, has requested the next 200 directories for his membership campaign. We think this is a fine idea.

Committees: The present committees should be maintained on their present or increased scope and activity. In addition, certain new committees have been added by the State. The list of committees and chairmen have been approved by the Executive Committee. The committee chairmen will be shown in the directory along with the men they have chosen to serve with them.

Attendance: The Attendance Committee should keep a list of all members attending each meeting. Telephone calls to remind the members of meetings from the Attendance Committee are highly desirable. Stimulate attendance of meetings and programs whether or not some of the members are able to come for dinner.

J. A. ASKREN, *President.*

PAY AS YOU DRIVE

Coin meters now are going on instrument panels of used cars in some cities, reports a national magazine.

After making your down payment, you must put a quarter in the slot before the ignition can be turned on. A warning buzzer sounds when another quarter is due. You have five miles in which to insert another coin, before the ignition switches off.

Six quarters a day for two years will pay off a \$1,000 balance on the car.

BARRIERS TO INTERSTATE PRACTICE

Use of registration laws as a means for keeping qualified out-of-state engineers from competing with local practitioners was strongly condemned at the annual meeting of the National Council of State Boards of Engineering Examiners.

The conditions result largely from selfishness and provincialism, as the committee reporting on the matter points out; but most of them find their origin in the widely different requirements that the states have set for registration as a professional engineer, particularly in a few states' requirements that now are considerably above those set forth in the model registration law.

The means by which some of the state license boards restrict the activities of out-of-state engineers range from petty annoyances, such as requiring them to appear personally before the board, to demanding payment of a non-resident permit fee of \$250, as is done in Alaska. A common practice is that of refusing to register an applicant by endorsement unless the board of the state from which the applicant comes has signed a reciprocal agreement with the state where he is applying.

All the restrictions listed by the committee have little or nothing to do with an applicant's qualifications to practice engineering. Many have been set up by the license boards through strained interpretations of the state laws. These can be eliminated by the boards themselves. Others will require amendment of registration

s, which means that the engineers in those states must make the proposed changes wholeheartedly. It is important to observe, however, that success or failure of the movement to eliminate these restrictions will depend largely on what is done by the boards in states with high license requirements, particularly New York.

No state that has raised its educational and training requirements above the level of other states can, with justice, ask all applicants for reciprocal registration to meet those higher requirements while it still has many practicing engineers who were registered under lower requirements or under a "grandfather clause." To do so can be just as serious discrimination against engineers in other states as some of the more obvious discrimination cited by the committee in its report.

There is much to be said in favor of higher standards of registration, but unless the steps in that direction are taken slowly enough friction between states with low and high standards is bound to develop. Leadership in minimizing friction must come from the large states where the need for higher standards is greatest.

—Editorial, *Engineering News-Record*.

—*Registration Bulletin*.

"PARKING PASSES" FOR SALE

The city of Martinsburg, W. Va., is experimenting with a "parking pass"—for \$36 a year motorists can buy a sign for their windshield which allows them to park at parking meters without putting money in.

If you have something worth while doing, don't talk about it, but do it.—G. W. Blount.

PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS

The November 1948 and the May 1949 State of Illinois Department of Registration and Education examinations for registered professional engineers have been reproduced in one booklet, available now.

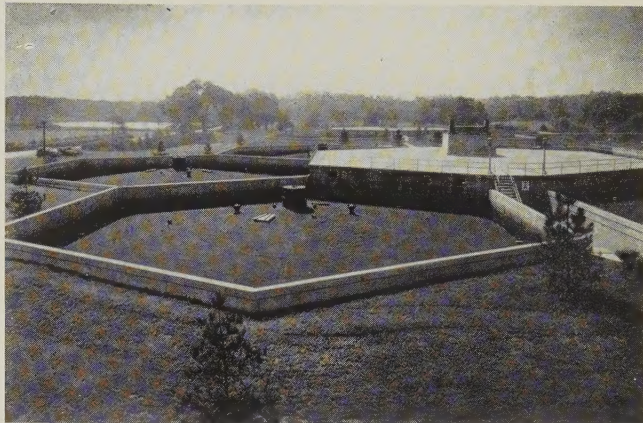
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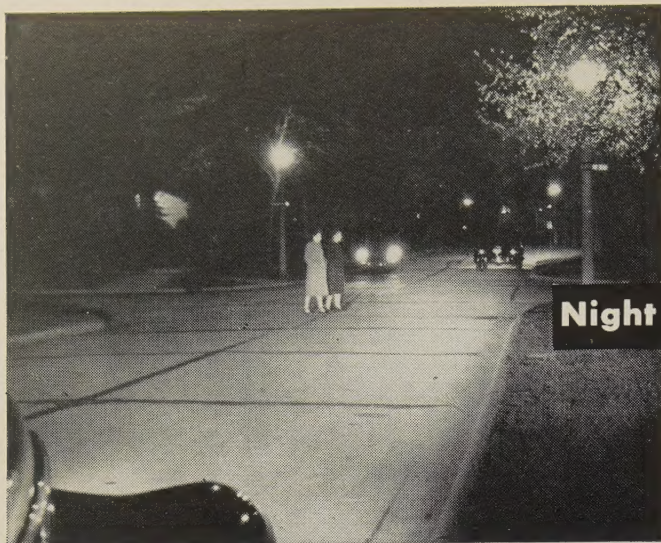
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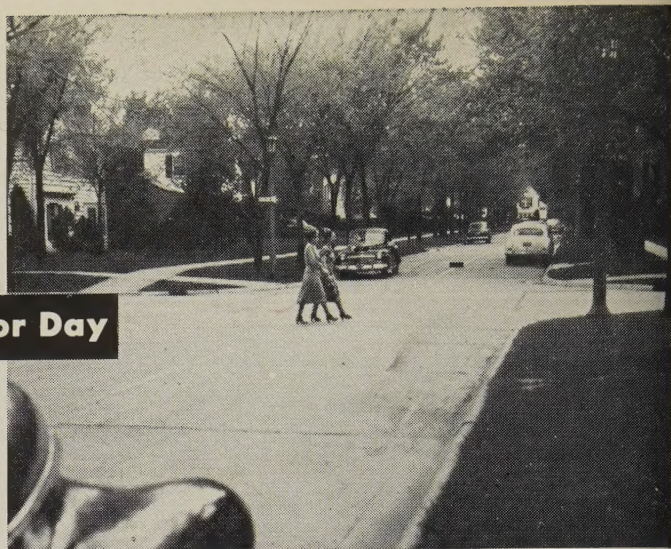
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